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## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 28, 2017, at 12 noon.

## Senate

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2017

The Senate met at 4 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Our Father God, thank You that we see You in the world around us, beholding Your works in the Earth and sea and sky. Your everlasting mercies sustain us, enabling us to borrow our heartbeats from You each day.

Today, be for our lawmakers an abiding and sustaining presence. May they live to serve and honor You, bringing glory to Your Name. Make them patient in debate, charitable in judgment, and slow to anger. Lord, empower them to defend and maintain the right, as they seek justice and freedom for all.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Dabney Langhorne Friedrich, of California, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 5:30 p.m. will be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

If no one yields time, the time will be equally divided.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

#### TAX REFORM

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, during the last decade, our complex Tax Code left hard-working families behind and allowed the wealthy and well connected to get ahead. It is so bad that one small business owner in Paducah, KY, recently wrote to my office asking for relief because, as he said, "Taxes are suffocating my company, and me personally."

The pain isn't just being felt in Kentucky. It is an urgent problem nationwide. Families and job creators are

doing their best to get ahead, but too often our Tax Code keeps them from reaching for the American dream. Working families and small businesses in our country deserve better than our outdated Tax Code, and that is what we are trying to deliver.

Tax reform represents the single most important thing we can do right now to spur economic growth, help support good jobs, and boost the middle class. This is our once-in-a-generation opportunity, and we should meet the challenge.

Overhauling our Tax Code can mean more money for small businesses to hire, to invest, and to expand. It can mean families keeping more of what they earn to save for a rainy day or an emergency. This relief can even mean getting one step closer to sending a child to college, buying a new car, or saving more for retirement.

This week, the Senate will continue our years-long effort toward tax reform. Under the leadership of Chairman HATCH, the Senate Finance Committee reported out legislation to replace our noncompetitive, complex, and outdated Tax Code.

Through dozens of hearings, substantial hard work, and an open amendment process, the committee has produced a bill that would prioritize the middle class and small businesses so they can keep more of their hard-earned money.

Our plan doubles the child tax credit, preserves the adoption tax credit, and roughly doubles the standard deduction to reduce how much income is taxed in the first place.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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